

# Cooperating Teacher's Handbook

## **A Guide for the Cooperating (Field Experience Site) Teacher**

Created in collaboration with faculty from:

Benton Harbor High School  
Bridgman High School  
Coloma High School  
Niles High School  
River Valley High School  
St. Joseph High School

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Berrien County's Teacher Cadet Academy  
was created in collaboration with the  
staff of the College of Education  
at  
Western Michigan University



# Welcome to the Teacher Cadet Academy!

Within the next ten years, 50 percent of the teachers in Berrien County will need to be replaced. Unfortunately, the supply of qualified teachers entering the profession is not keeping up with the current and projected demand. We firmly believe that to meet this crisis head on, we should begin to “grow our own” teachers through a new high school offering -- The Teacher Cadet Academy.

The Teacher Cadet Academy was formed during the summer of 1999 by a group of Berrien County teachers and administrators and the staff from Western Michigan University’s School of Education. The Teacher Cadet Academy was implemented in the Fall of 1999 in four pilot sites -- Benton Harbor, Bridgman, Coloma, and Niles. Currently, students in both north and south county have access to the TCA.

As a **cooperating teacher**, you will have great influence on the learning experience of your cadet. By sharing your thinking, your insights, and your knowledge of teaching, you can nourish your cadets and provide them a healthy start on their way to becoming competent teachers. You will also be instrumental in modeling the day to day routines of classroom instruction and management. This **Cooperating Teacher Manual** was designed to provide you with an overview of the learning your cadet will experience this year (both at your field site and in the Teacher Cadet Academy classroom); as well as an overview of the responsibilities, expectations, and assessments tool utilized.

Those of us involved with the Teacher Cadet Academy have the unique opportunity to be a part of education far beyond our own years in the classroom. If we can truly excite our cadets about the teaching profession, hopefully they will return back to their communities as effective and innovated educators.

Thank you for agreeing to join us! We feel confident in your ability to help us impact the future of our profession!

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